



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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12 SEPTEMBER 1966

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1. South Vietnam

The Saigon embassy estimates that only two percent of the ballots cast in the election were not valid. However, in the Buddhist strongholds of Hué and Da Nang some 10 percent of ballots are said to have been invalidated.

2. North Vietnam

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3. Communist China

The teen-aged mobs which make up Mao's Red Guards are now being permitted to attack local and regional party offices in various parts of the country. This activity is explicitly endorsed by the top leaders in Peking as part of their effort to downgrade the authority of the regular party apparatus.

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4. Nationalist China

Chiang Kai-shek is showing extreme frustration over the inability of his regime to exploit the current turmoil on the mainland. Obsessed with an exaggerated notion of Taiwan's capabilities in this respect, he has been blasting his subordinates for their unimaginativeness. He probably feels they are willfully refusing to carry out his wishes.

Chiang's nerves have been rubbed raw by recent flagrant breaches of party discipline in his official family. He is holding the threat of his own resignation over the government, but this is probably only a tactic to tighten his personal control.

5. Egypt

The installation of the new cabinet today may well mark a significant shift to the left. Nasir's speech on the occasion stressed "self-reliance" and was, in effect, a repudiation of Western-style economic policies in favor of courses more in line with his "Arab socialist" ideas.

The new prime minister has shown an affinity for Soviet ways of doing things. He is chairman of the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society.

6. Ethiopia

The death of Defense Minister Merid last weekend was an important loss to the Emperor. Merid, more than any other man, saved the Emperor at the time of the 1960 coup attempt. His death will affect the power balance seriously and set off a scramble among the elite for Merid's seat at the Emperor's table.

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7. France

Paris has spiked any hopes that it will permit the US to reoccupy bases in France before Paris itself declares war. This was the upshot of Couve de Murville's talk with Ambassador Bohlen on Friday. It is clear that Paris envisages a situation in which France could remain neutral while its NATO allies were at war.

8. Guatemala

The Communist guerrillas have publicly reiterated their goal of seizing power through violent revolution. This came in response to President Mendez' latest call for conciliation.

Mendez' appeal was accompanied by a warning that the full armed weight of the government would fall on any group rejecting his call for peace. Mendez [redacted] however, [redacted] feels the elimination of the guerrillas is a long-term problem and that his speech was directed mainly at the rightists.

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If he fails to act promptly against the Communists, growing discontent in the military will sharpen. Rightist politicians will then have an even more fertile field for their plotting.

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ANNEX

Mao's Red Guards in Action

Violent clashes between Red Guards and party authorities have been noted now in at least nine Chinese cities.

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The guards first denounced the provincial leaders--calling them, among other things, "rotten eggs," "bastards," and "dogs." Then they broke into party headquarters, beat up a number of army officers and others who tried to reason with them, and finally issued a "proclamation" condemning the entire Sinkiang party leadership.

The "masses," became so aroused that they "violently opposed" the guards. There were no details, however, on what kind of counteraction was taken.

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It is probably only a matter of time before official moves are taken against the Sinkiang party leaders for daring to stand up against the Red Guards. As People's Daily warned yesterday, resisting the guards is equivalent to opposing Mao himself.

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